

# TIMELINE OF THE AGE OF METTERNICH

The Legacy of Prince Klemens von Metternich, during the period of 1809-1848 born of a noble family. (Later to be known as the “Age of Metternich”)



## (1802-1806) - FOREIGN SERVICE BEGINS

He served as the secretary at the Embassy in St. Petersburg and served as ambassador in Dresden, Berlin and Paris.

## 1809 - DIPLOMATIC SERVICE BEGINS

Metternich got his first diplomatic job in October, around the time the Treaty of Schönbrunn was signed ending hostilities with France.

Archduchess Marie Louise, painted in 1812



1808

## 1810 - RISES IN POWER THROUGH FRANCO-AUSTRIAN NEGOTIATIONS

At this point, Austria is a “second-rate power”. Metternich, satisfied with Napoleon's treatment of the Archduchess Marie Louise, pushed and supported their marriage securing peace while Austria recouped its losses.

## 1813 - PROTECTS AUSTRIAN INTERESTS

As a result of his work seeking to increase Austrian interests in Europe, Metternich became influential and respected to the extent of being awarded the title “prince”, a hereditary title.

Painted in 1815



## (1814-1815) RISES TO PROMINENCE AT CONGRESS OF VIENNA

Metternich heads the Congress of Vienna, where the Big Four accept France into their ranks, and the questions over what to do with ‘Poland’ & Saxony are put forward. See map of post-Vienna Europe.



## 1818 - CONGRESS OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE

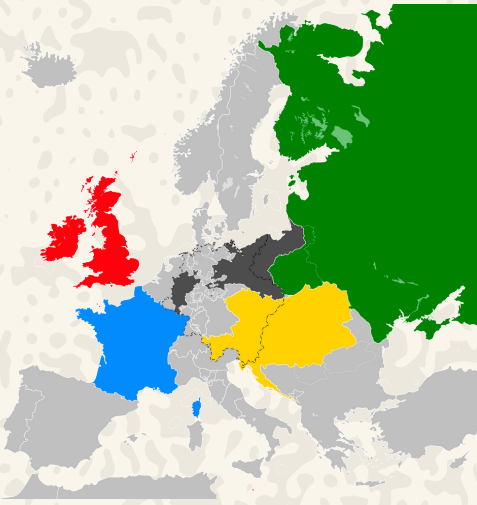
Metternich expanded Austria's alliance with Britain. The British sought stability on the continent, meanwhile, the Austrians sought stability for its survival. Metternich would seek to weaken Russia's policy influence on Austrian affairs.



Castlereagh, British representative at Aix-La-Chapelle (painted 1809-1810)

## 1820 - CONGRESS OF TROPPAU

Metternich's pinnacle point in diplomatic skill. He pitted France against Russia, focusing on containing the Tsar's intentions as a Uprising in Naples' was occurring during the Congress, Metternich wanted to keep the Italian States under Austrian influence away from Russian influence.



Map of the Quintuple Alliance, who met at Troppau

## 1821 - CONGRESS OF LAIBACH

By now, Metternich had Alexander wrapped around his finger, they agreed that the three Eastern powers of Prussia, Austria and Russia have the authority to 'police Europe', from political and social unrest.



Tsar Alexander I of Russia (painted 1820)

## Conclusion

Metternich's legacy was the "coachman of Europe". He lived during a time of change in the European balance of power. He wanted to maintain the status quo of predominant powers, rule of monarchs, and especially Austria's position of power. When revolutions popped up around Europe in 1830, he said, "my whole life's work is destroyed!" His life's work would survive in relative stability for a century, but the system would ultimately fail at the outset of the Great War. As great as his diplomacy was he couldn't predict how far spread nationalism would become.

## Resources

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